

## Oral book reports with 14 year old black female, New Haven, Connecticut (Transcription)

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Speaker: Mama is the grandmother of travis and uh mama well she inherited twenty thousand dollars and uh so uh she got the money and she went out in this caucasian neighborhood and uh they didn't want her out there but she bought this house and uh well she bought this house well this it was this man his name was mr uh i forgot his name well anyway he uh was trying to buy the house back but mama that was her name she didnt want to sell it so since uh uh, walter was the man of the house, since her husband had died and everything walter was the man of the hoUse and uh she put the money in walter's hands and she said that if he didnt want the house that he can uh sell it to the man so so anyway he didnt <unintelligible text> the man came at first he said he was a welcome committee and uh but they found out that he was you know he was beating around the bush and said that uh he was here to welcome them to their new neighborhood and then he finally said why dont you stay uh where your kind is we dont want your kind around here and uh so walter ordered the man out of the house he went out of the house and I'd say about a week later they moved to their new house and it was a group of white caucasians i think uh people they came and uh they uh was trying to order order the negro family out of their house but they didnt so uh what walter did he said if you want trouble you can get trouble but as long as you dont start no trouble you dont get no trouble and after that they was

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Speaker: friendly ever since and uh (ques) they was friendly and uh mama well uh ruth and well mama she uh she well she wanted a a backyard of her own always and uh but this house it had a big backyard and it was a pretty house and that was where she always had wanted that was what her husband wanted her to have before he died he even worked his fingers to the bones just to get a house that pretty for them to live in and the she always wanted a a garden so what travis and uh ruth and uh <vernitta?> and walter did well they got her some garden tools and they uh uh travis bought her a pretty hat and uh she liked it very much and uh she was so surprised that she started crying and she said thank you jesus thank you and uh she said my uh then she said that her uh dream had finally come true and uh ruth well she was pregnant at the time but she didnt want to tell walter because she didnt think walter would could afford it so uh what she did she waited awhile and when they got in the house and everything they was celebrating and everything and uh she said walter i got something to tell you then he said what and she said i think you better sit down so uh he sat down and then uh he told her and he said another one just like that <unintelligible text> and uh she said look i can always have an abortion and he said a bad word but i dont think i should say it and uh ques) like hell no and uh so she said she said i can always uh get rid of it and he said if you ever if i ever caught you getting rid of my baby me and you gonna me and you gonna have it out and so they was all happy and everything and uh they liked their house very much and uh so anyway well the true point is that uh caucasians some caucasians are prejudiced when they first moved into this neighborhood uh the caucasians they didnt want them to live there because they they uh thought all negroes was troublemakers but they just dint want to give uh the negro family a chance thats what some uh people need today is a chance but some uh people dont realize that

Speaker: and uh uh another point is that no matter uh where you go or what you do or how hard you please or how hard you struggle there always gonna be prejudice and uh you always will find uh hatred in others but they dont want to give like today some caucasians dont want to give the negroes a chance they want to down them all the time

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but i think thats terrible and uh i dont like it myself thats why im gonna finish school and do whatever you know do as much as i can because i like school myself and uh well i gotta lot of caucasian friends but now since they you know they're all right when theyre not around their friends but when theyre around their friends theyre different but i dont pay that no mind cause it goes in one ear and out the other and uh well some caucasians they well they'll like help sometimes but most of the time the majority of them are prejudiced idont know why but theyre prejudiced i dont think theres no hope for them if you ask me there might be a little hope for us but what what is prejudice gonna get them it aint gon get them nowhere cause its not gon it aint gon do nothing if you ask me theyre hurting theirselves its really fear theyre scared prejudice is a feeling of fear a prejudgement of other people and uh they just dont know they think that that all colored people are alike negro people are alike but they just dont want to give us a chance but in order for us to like when i was young my grand my great grandmother used to say dont let shed say dont give up quick she said if you give up if if you give up quick that theres no hope for you but if you sorta struggle a little bit she said the harder you struggle that sometimes if they see you that is they uh see that youre trying to make it theyll help you but most of the time they just say look at you but you have to really put a little pep into it if you want to get somewhere today because today likfe is just as hard as it was in that day they those days that was about in the roaring twenties or something like that

Speaker: but see they want all of us to stay down a lot of time but they gotta realize that we cant stay down forever no matter what they how hard they try or what they do they cant keep up down forever not ill ill tell them ill speak my mind in a minute think nothing of it i might think something of it but i wouldnt sometimes you just have to put them in their place sometime and uh(ques) uh up north prejudice isnt as bad as it is down there down south if uh a negro boy touched a white girl or kissed her or something he can get in jail for that and they cant even hold hearings down there but uh they some of them well they go to different schools and everything but up here its different i see a lot of caucasians going around with a whole lot of negro people i see uh negro girls going with caucasian boys

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but down there you if a negro boy went with a colored boy he could get life or that he cant even go with her down there i think thats stupid when will they ever learn i said to myslef and uh so my mother my grandmother she died and my mother brought me up here and so you know i was family and everything when i first came here they was really friendly and they still is but some of them they just have to show how big and bad they are and the people that go for bad that went for bad are six feet under the ground so thats why it pays you to keep cool and live your life as you want it to be and be yourself and nobody else long as you be yourslef youre all right but if you try to be somebody else there aint no hope for you i dont think there's any hope for anybody like some of them they like to you know they tries to copy you but why copy? ques) like uh for instance dancing if they cant dance as good as the negro let them dance the way they want to dance negroes cant dance the way white people dance thats their business and they always meddle in other people's business thats one point they cant keep their minds to theirsself they always (ques) like uh uh lets see now like if somebody get

Speaker: in trouble well they always come over and say what happened what happened whats this and all that instead of them ignoring that see long as you ignore somebody that makes them real mad and they want to kill you but if you stand there and you argue and all this jazz well that makes them want to fight and you not gonna stand up there and just let them hit you just like that andthen you gotta take up for yourself but when you do all that you just gotta give it to them cant let them take over you like that you know if you let one time if you you could let them slip you you know just let them go past you know they keep on bumping up into you and all that like everybody it can be anybody and theyll try to start trouble some of them will its not all the time the negro that'll start trouble its most sometimes its the caucasians they start trouble too because even when you're walking down the hall in the school uh high school and theyll bump up into you and uh they dont even say excuse me or im sorry and you know that makes you mad i know i get mad sometimes but i i kinda have to control my temper sometimes because i got a bad temper and uh anyways I just let itslide but you know so if you let it slide slide slide they gone

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keep on doing it and you gotta just take up for yourself cant just let them slide all the time you gotta knock them around a little bit and then theyll leave you alone and thats the way some negro sometimes they can be jealous of you and uh some caucasian'll be jealous of you too but dont pay that no mind long as you uh uh pay any attention to that jealousy you bound to be dead in another year because trouble starts only when uh a person you know if you ignore it well you aint got nothing to worry about but if you stand here and argue and all that i think thats real stupid i dont think people you know if they argue just stand up there arguing i mean just look at them they get real mad they cant do nothin but look

and uh well you're standing there and they're arguing you leave them there arguing and they look stupid that makes them look stupid and uh they get real mad they cant do nothing but get mad and and uh when you leave them alone they they give you the eyes and everything but whats the eyes gonna do you as long as <unintelligible text> in there ahead and theyre arguing youre all right but some kids they dont realize that they think fightings gonna solve something but sometimes fighting do but most of the time i dont think it solves nothing it only gives you gets you all bruised and all that and whats the big bruise and black eyes and all that (ques) have i ever foughten yeah acouple of times ques) well it was this friend of mine see she couldnt stand me because see she said i had this feeling that i was cute and everything see i didnt pay that no mind anyway she give me the eyes and everything id just look at her and go on about my business and uh lately she had you know she was bumping up into me and she wouldnt say scuse me but you know i just let it slide and i let it slide let it slide but the third i let it slide twice i dont let you slide twice if you gonna do it the third time im just gonna have to tell you off and uh so she it was uh on a friday and uh she bumped all into me and uh i fell down all over myeslf and then i pushed her off of me and she got mad and she was doing uh a lot of fumbling but you know all that i wasnt saying nothing i was just standing there you know and that made her real mad and so she took my hair and she start pulling it and she pushed a handful of it i said i said i said now what you get out of pulling my hair see that made me mad and then i had to do soemthing i just couldn't stand there and let her pull all my hair out you

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see she was jealous of me because most of my friends you know they always said that i have a boss walk and all thats ah then she always said that i tried to put it on but i told them how i wadnt have <unintelligible text> change my walk for nobody i said its my walk and im gonna keep it i said theyd know why its my walk if theyd look at my mother just like that cause i walk just like here

and uh so she said so she ah you think <unintelligible text> cute so you know my i told i went home and i told my mother about it and so she told me to ignore it and that what i been doing so i ignore it and every thing then you know it start comming on stronger and stronger now she got all my friends against me but i do without them because i came in the world without them and i can live without them for sure END

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